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SUBJECT

Economic Information: Soviet-Chinese Communist

INFO.

Trade, Manchuria

DIST.

November 1947

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PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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Heavy rains have raised the water level of the Sungari River so that even large vessels can navigate to Harbin. The Russians intend to utilize large numbers of river vessels in order to transport as much foodstuff as possible from Marbin to the USSR before the river freezes.

In the afternoon on 3 August two small gunboats, formerly used by Japanese forces, and ten small river steamers, each towing one tugboat (? barge ?), docked at the Lin Chiang ( ) T. ) wharf in Harbin, Tao Wai ( ) ). The gunboats flew the Soviet flag. Two of the steamers were loaded with various types of ammunition. In the morning on 4 August the unloading of the vessels was begun.

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The ships came from the Soviet border via Poli (135-04, 48-30)/Khabarovsk/ to 3. Tungchiang (132-29, 47-39) and up the Sungeri River. The ships would carry large quantities of flour from Harbin on the return trip. 25X1A2g 25X1A6a

After the arrival of the ships the transportation sections of the Chinese Com-4. muhist Trading Company and the Min Sheng (民生) Company were extremely busy.

Note: See for further information on these companies. The Shuang Ho Sheng (要和食), Chih Ch'ang T'ai (職 昌太) and Yung Sheng (永生) flour mills, as well as all government (Chinese Communist)—controlled mills, were transporting large quantities of flour to the wharf by cart, and large numbers of laborers were gathered to load the ships. On 7 August all the vessels departed downriver.

In the forenoon on 8 August two medium-sized Soviet steamers arrived from downriver at the lin Chiang wharf. The vessels had one funnel each and bore no names. Several Soviet crew members went ashore. Unloading of the ships' cargoes and reloading with flour was completed on 11 August; the vessels departed dewnriver in the early morning of 12 August.

In mid-August 1947 a commercial agreement was signed by the Chinese Communists (Harbin Municipality ?) and the Soviet (Harbin ?) consulete. According to the agreement the Chinese Communists will deliver 400,000 bags of flour (each bag, 20 kilograms) and 40,000 pounds of bean oil. An order was issued by the Harbin Municipal Covernment which stated that each person was authorized to possess a

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maximum of 40 pounds of flour for his personal use and that all flour above this amount would be purchased by the Lunicipality at 10,000 Chinese Communist Northeast currency per bag, to be raid in three instalments. The flour and oil will be collected about 20 August.

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the Soviet steamers which arrived during early August will transport some of the goods and that the remainder will be transported by rail via Suifenho (131-09, 44-23) to the Soviet border.

Note: The Soviet side of the agreement was not reported.)

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